How we got here

- Brief background
- The team
- Why DSDM?
- Our scope:
  Implications for a PMO of Agile approaches
Some Definitions

- Our P in PMO stands for Projects
- Three scenarios where Agile PMOs are needed:
  1. Agile approaches are the norm – the PMO is new
  2. The PMO is being pushed by the use of Agile approaches
  3. The PMO is promoting Agile approaches
Questions to answer

PMO specialists ask:

1. How do we cope with less precise business cases?
2. How do we prioritise projects against each other if you can’t tell in advance what the benefits are?
3. How can this work in our regulated industry?
4. How do we recognise and report that an Agile project is going wrong?
5. How do we align seemingly ad hoc Agile project reporting with our time-based governance?

We would add:

6. How could we make the life of Agile project easier and quicker while also serving the needs of the organisation?
Some answers to...

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Gated Review Processes

Typical Gates

1. Permission to investigate an idea
2. Permission to build a Business Case
3. Business Case approval – go ahead
4. Permission to test deliverables
5. Permission to deliver
6. Project closure
## Annual vs. Agile Portfolio Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Agile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basis for funding decisions</strong></td>
<td>The known state of the organisation at the end of the financial year and the prediction for the next year</td>
<td>The known state of the organisation at any point during the financial year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity for change</strong></td>
<td>Limited by the allocated budget</td>
<td>Enabled through continuous monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment to spend</strong></td>
<td>“Once and for all” decisions made annually</td>
<td>Discretionary funding decisions enabled throughout the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of funding</strong></td>
<td>Potential for holding back on using resources early in the financial year, because “they might be needed later”</td>
<td>Funding used to the full when allocated to move the organisation forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exceeding budgets</strong></td>
<td>Reported at fixed points, e.g. quarterly – leading to disaster recovery</td>
<td>Reported at the time when it becomes apparent - enabling better control of financial risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits delivery</strong></td>
<td>May well be aligned to the annual cycle for ease of measurement and overall governance</td>
<td>Aligned to the ability to deliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk assessment</strong></td>
<td>Based on the known state at the start of the financial year</td>
<td>Based on the state of the portfolio in its incremental delivery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Portfolio Prioritisation

• Portfolio-level MoSCoW rules
  – **Must have** – at the core of business change
  – **Should have** – would be must have if there were no issues with resourcing, etc. (will be a Must Have soon!)
  – **Could have** – icing on the organisational cake
  – **Won’t have this time** – accepted as valid Business Cases but for later consideration

• Assessing individual project’s suitability to Agile approaches
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Change Control of Requirements - 1

Traditional Approach

DSDM Approach

- Rqmts
- Time
- Quality
- Cost

Fixed

Variable
Change Control of Requirements - 2

- Control changes to the breadth of requirements – not the depth
- Consider how to achieve
  - Reduction of current procedures
  - Elimination of as many approvals as possible
  - The lightest possible Change Control Form
  - Stakeholders involved throughout the project
- Monitor external dependencies
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KPIs for Agile work

- **Velocity** – one team’s productivity
- **Cycle time** – from customer request received to solution delivered
- **Boomerangs** – things that bounce back from delivered solutions
- **Customer involvement** – time spent working on the project
- **Customer satisfaction** – captured during the project, e.g. at Timebox Reviews
Quality Management

• PMO needs to ascertain how the Agile quality principles below fit with corporate procedures, etc.
  – Excellent requirements evolved through facilitated workshops, etc.
  – Fitness for business purpose through continuous, consistent and focused customer involvement
  – Continuous review of the evolving solution and supporting documentation
  – Continuous validation and verification of the evolving and delivered solution through testing
  – Preservation of built-in quality through rigorous configuration management
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Project Planning and Monitoring

• Gantt charts only go so far
• Need visible statement of what each timebox will deliver (using MoSCoW rules)
• Project information is on walls, whiteboards, cards…
• PMO can track what has/has not been delivered
• Tools used to store information on walls can help the PMO – but should not replace the walls
Support for Estimating: points to consider

• The horizon for estimates is much nearer than traditionally
• The accuracy of estimates improves as the detailed requirements emerge
• Historic data must be from Agile projects because
  – Project phases/activities will be different (especially evolutionary development)
  – Length of time on tasks different because of different communications
  – Level of customer involvement will be different (undertaking tasks not traditionally included in project plans)
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Resource Management

• Fine-tuned processes for acquiring resources swiftly (not just people)
• Efficient HR systems (timely training, keeping skills up to date, employing contractors, etc.)
• Avoid context-switching for scarce human resource
• Include appropriate levels of customer participation in human resource plans
Stakeholder Engagement

• PMO BAU, e.g. monitoring which projects/programmes dealing with whom

• PMO not part of the close engagement

• Potential PMO activities:
  – Supporting efficient procedures for meeting rooms
  – Briefing stakeholders
  – Workshop kits
  – Facilitation
Standards for methods and tools

• Tailoring guidelines – processes, products and roles

• Pocketbook lists criteria for tools to be selected for use in Agile projects
Knowledge management

• Agile knowledge may not be documented so remains local

• PMO could
  – Manage a central Agile library or wiki or…
  – Provide fast-track project mobilisation service
  – Manage a pool of Agile coaches
  – Facilitate knowledge sharing, e.g. through COPs, brown-bag lunches, …
Planning the transition to Agile PMO

The Place to Go

- Facilitative
- Responsive
- Proactive
- Empowered experts/advisors
- Continuous support & monitoring
- Measures arising from projects
- Encouraging small chunks of work
- Respecting resource constraints
- Ensuring incremental delivery
- Responsive to business change
- Close to the business and projects
- Focus on assurance
- Focus on compliance
- Doing it all (context-switching for people, pet projects, etc.)
- Championing “big bang” measures
- Staid and traditional
- Avoiding change to projects
- Distant from business or projects
- Rule-based administrators
- Periodic spikes of demand on projects
- Clerical
- Reactive
- Bureaucratic
- Dictatorial

The Place to Avoid